



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Poland

Agricultural Situation

European Commission Requirements on U.S. Dairy Certification Remain Unclear

2007

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Report Highlights:

Recent U.S. dairy shipments to certain EU countries including the Netherlands and Poland were not cleared due to the lack of clarity in European Commission (EC) documentation requirements. Dairy shipments can also be rejected due to incorrect labeling. Exporters should remain in close contact with their importers regarding documentation and labeling requirements for dairy products in order to avoid clearance delays. Clarification from the EC regarding the documentation requirements is expected in early January 2008.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
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[PL]

Recent dairy shipments to certain EU countries including the Netherlands and Poland have been held by inspectors due to the lack of clarity in European Commission (EC) documentation requirements on seal and container numbers. Exporters should remain in close contact with their importers regarding documentation for dairy products in order to avoid clearance delays.

The European Commission requires that the date on the EU Health Certificate endorsed by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is on or prior to the date of shipment for dairy product exports from the United States. The date requirement is not in question and AMS recommends that exporters apply for the certificate at least five days prior to shipment. In addition, dairy shipments can be held because of labeling problems. Dairy products exported to the EU must be labeled with the EU plant number and the country of origin. Because these are official EC regulations, FAS offices in Europe will have difficulty providing exporters with any assistance on shipments that do not meet these requirements.

Certain countries in the European Union are also requiring that container and seal numbers are listed on the AMS endorsed EU Health Certificate. These countries include Bulgaria, Denmark (container number only), Finland, the Netherlands and Poland. Exporters should confer with their importers on specific country requirements. FAS Europe offices in countries experiencing dairy clearance problems and FAS USEU Brussels have explained the challenge of meeting the certificate date, container and seal number requirements to government officials and the EC.

The Foreign Agricultural Service's USEU office requested clarification from the EC in November 2007 on whether the seal and container numbers are voluntary or obligatory on these health certificates. We will provide an update on the requirements once the EC responds in early January 2008.